

# Buffalo County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Quarterly Meeting April 24, 2006

Chairman Loewenstein called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. at UAP Pueblo.

## Roll call

**present** (8): Vern Fiala, Judy Jobman, Darrin Lewis, Tim Loewenstein, Dan Lynch, Mike Martinosky, Dan Saathoff, and Ken Tracy.

**excused** (7): Robert Anderson, Amy Elwood, Don Engel Jr., Michael Morgan, Harlan Simmerman, Jerry Thompson and Wesley Quail

**absent** (0)

There was a quorum present.

## Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Lynch, seconded by Tracy to approve the minutes of January 23, 2006. Motion carried.

## Oral Communication

No oral communications were offered.

## Old Business

Lynch advised the matter of housing of the Mobile command center was still being looked into. City Manager Morgan is looking at a possible new location and research is being done of possible grant opportunities available to build a new building.

Lewis advised the command center has been lettered.

Discussion was held on the public's access to LEPC information. The members in attendance felt the following items could probably be made available on our site:

- Tier 2 reports

- Sheltering in place

- General Emergency information

- Chemical information regarding: Agri and hazardous chemicals

- MSDS labels for Chemicals (look at [www.cdms.net](http://www.cdms.net))

Wave file demo of our Emergency Notification "G whiz dialer" complete with word for word of what one hears when they receive a call and what response (s) should be made

Emergency Manager Lewis updated the LEPC members on the successful Sub-Hub exercise which was held on March 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>; explained the table top exercises are complete; the time expiring temporary ID badges worked very well in the exercise and the exercise ran so smooth, people were most knowledgeable and on target so it was hard to keep the Sub Hub exercise a challenge to the participants.

Chairman Loewenstein advised the group he had participated in a Blue Cross-Blue Shield telephonic conference and Blue Cross stated with regard to the Pandemic flu their conclusion is: “not if there will be an outbreak but **When**, so we need what to do plans.

### **New Business**

Chairman Loewenstein asked for nominations of officers for 2006-2007.

Lynch moved, seconded by Tracy to nominate Loewenstein for Chairman. Loewenstein asked three times for further nominations. There were none. Motion carried and Loewenstein was unanimously elected Chairman.

Martinosky moved, seconded by Lynch to nominate Lewis as Vice-Chair. Lynch moved nominations cease, seconded by Martinosky. Motion carried, Lewis was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

Lynch moved, seconded by Loewenstein to nominate Jobman for Secretary. Lynch moved nominations cease, seconded by Loewenstein. Motion carried. Jobman was unanimously elected Secretary.

### **Other projects**

Dan Saathoff reported on designs he had found for LEPC shirts for the members. Moved by Martinosky, seconded by Lynch to use the following design and purchase navy shirts with white lettering from Rainbow Printing. Motion carried. Dan will take care of ordering the shirts.



Chairman Loewenstein presented nominations for the vacancies on the LEPC committee and asked for possible nominees for other vacancies.

Moved by Lynch, seconded by Martinosky to forward the names of Robert Anderson Buffalo County Sheriff's, (representing Law Enforcement); Judy Jobman, Buffalo County Clerk, (representing Elected and Appointed Officials) and Ken Tracy Kearney Fire (representing suburban fire) with research continuing for one person to represent Media Communications, two for Local Environmental and Transportation Agencies, and one for First Aid. Motion carried.

Darrin reported on the Buffalo County Emergency Management and the Hastings Weather Service Server Weather Spotter training class which was held at the Kearney Fire Training Grounds. He further stated there was standing room only with over 60 in attendance.

It was reported that Buffalo Watch is on 7500 Desktops and the question was raised if only warnings could be sent to our cell phones when people sign up with Buffalo Watch for notification. Chairman Loewenstein will investigate this request.

Chairman Loewenstein reported two weeks ago a group of individuals representing various organizations got together to pursue the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention is 2006 grant to support expansion of methamphetamine prevention interventions and/or infrastructure development. This program addresses the growing problem of methamphetamine abuse and addiction by assisting localities to expand prevention interventions that are effective and evidence-based and/or to increase capacity through infrastructure development. The goal is to intervene effectively to prevent, reduce or delay the use and/or spread of methamphetamine abuse. It is expected that up to \$3.3 million will be available to fund 9-11 awards in FY 2006. Annual awards are expected to be from \$300,000 to \$350,000 per year in total costs (direct and indirect) for up to 3 years.

Darrin presented the Tier 2 Reports he has received and advised he is still waiting for reports from nine entities.

The new Shelter in Place brochure was handed out to all in attendance.

At 8:00 P.M. the joint meeting with The Greater Kearney Area COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster - formerly (VOAD) Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) was held. Each entity in attendance explained about their organization so everyone had a greater awareness of the assets and capabilities available when needed for a disaster or other emergency situations.

Joining us from the COAD group were John Lakey, Linda Leavister, Beth Jochen, Danny Baer, Dr. David Bacon and from CERT-James Reider.

- John Lakey – UNK – Volunteers and staff and have active emergency team
- Public Schools – Vehicles and 13 buildings that can be used for emergency shelters
- Beth Jochen– Red Cross – shelters, volunteers, wide variety of emergency services
- Danny Baer– ARES ham radio group – emergency communications
- David Bacon-Medical Reserve Corp- Volunteer Health Professionals
- Ken Tracy- Volunteer Fire Department –reserve (Explorers) Hazmat team
- Darrin Lewis the Emergency Management – Resource Coordinator, assisting local Government to make informed decisions during emergencies
- James Reider (JR) with the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- United Way – Provide organized Volunteers
- Two Rivers Public Health Department – health education

Great discussion was held and on May 4, 2006 COAD will hold a meeting and Beth Jochen will keep our LEPC secretary updated so all members will be informed.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting will be at the Law Enforcement Center located at 2025 Avenue A at 7:00 P.M. and Lynch will confirm our location.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Loewenstein adjourned the meeting at 8:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Jobman, Secretary



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Shelter in place document

## Shelter in Place

### What is Shelter-in-Place?

In a situation where a serious hazardous chemical spill has quickly caused a toxic atmosphere, it may be more dangerous to go through those toxic vapors or to attempt to outrun them than to stay in an existing structure. Shelter-in-Place means to get to the inside of a building and remain there during a chemical emergency rather than attempting to evacuate the area. Shelter-in-Place is a viable option for protection against exposure to potentially dangerous airborne chemicals during an emergency.

### Why Should I Shelter-in-Place?

During a hazardous materials incident, the idea is to keep everyone's exposure to any chemical as low as possible. It is best to get out of the area and have no exposure, but in a sudden chemical release there may not be time to safely evacuate. In such cases, attempts to evacuate could place you at greater risk of exposure than if you had stayed in your home or workplace. Shelter-in-place is used when there has been a serious hazardous chemical spill that has quickly caused a toxic atmosphere and there is not enough time to safely leave the area. When you shelter-in-place, you take protective action in a structure to reduce exposure to toxic chemical levels. So, unless otherwise instructed to evacuate, sheltering-in-place could be the best way to safely wait out a hazardous chemical release.

### How safe is it to Shelter-in-Place?

In a 2001 report by The National Institute for Chemical Studies, several studies were cited that demonstrate the value of sheltering-in-place during a chemical emergency. In older homes, the average house was found to change its air at a rate of less than 1/3 change per hour. It was also found that if one room in the house was sealed up with duct tape and plastic, the amount of chemical that was in the room after one hour was between 1/7 to 1/17 of what was outside. Another study found that sealing up a house also filtered out some of the chemicals. Not only did a sealed up house limit the amount of air coming into a house, the walls actually did some filtering of the air that seeped in. Sheltering-in-place cannot completely eliminate all exposure to the chemical, but it can keep the exposure below dangerous levels.

The report concluded: "For the vast majority of events that have led to the public to shelter-in-place, there have been no reported injuries. In fact, for a very few cases, clouds of toxic materials of sufficient concentration to cause harm have entered communities and, because sheltering-in-place has been accepted by the community and was successfully implemented, no one was injured. The body of evidence suggests that if there is insufficient time to complete an evacuation, or the chemical leak will be of limited duration, or conditions would make an evacuation more risky than staying in place, sheltering-in-place is a good way to protect the public during chemical emergencies."

### When should I Shelter-in-Place?

A hazardous materials accident can occur anywhere. There may even be a time when you are close to where a chemical accident has taken place. If you feel or hear a strange sound like an explosion; if you see a strange cloud; if you smell a strange odor; if you feel nauseous or have burning or tearing eyes; trust your senses, don't wait for a warning confirmation and act immediately. If it is obvious that you can safely evacuate the area, do so, but remember shelter-in-place as the next option.

## IN BUFFALO COUNTY MONITOR:

KGFW/KQKY	1340 AM	105.9 FM
KKPR	1460 AM	98.9 FM
KHGI-TV (NTV)		Channel 13
NOAA weather radio		162.475

If there is a chemical release in Buffalo County, the emergency alert system will be utilized. The outdoor warning sirens will sound to alert the public to turn on a radio or television for further emergency information.

### Where do I Shelter-in-Place?

If you are told to shelter-in-place or if you believe you need to, you should go inside any building close by immediately. If you are not by your own house, a church, school, or store are good options. If you are not near any buildings, your car is a better choice than staying outside. Your home is the best choice to shelter-in-place because you will know where tapes, towels, plastics and other items are located to help you create your shelter space.

### How do I Shelter-in-Place?

- Close all doors to the outside and close and lock all windows (windows sometimes seal better when locked.)
- Ventilation systems should be turned off so no outside air is drawn into the structure.
- Turn off all heating systems and all air-conditioners and switch inlets to the "closed" position.
- Seal any gaps around window type air-conditioners with tape and plastic sheeting, wax paper, or aluminum wrap.
- Turn off all the exhaust fans in kitchens, bathrooms and attics, and cover the openings with plastic wrap or plastic sheeting.
- Close all fireplace dampers and seal with plastic if possible.
- Close as many internal doors as possible in the structure you are in.
- Pick a room on the highest level of the structure, as most of the chemicals that are of concern are heavier than air and will settle in the basement.
- Select a room in the building that is comfortable and easy to seal off. The room should, if possible, provide access to water, toilet facilities, and have adequate room for people and pets to sit.
- If the vapor begins to bother you place a wet cloth over your nose and mouth. For a higher degree of protection, go into the bathroom, close the door and turn on the shower in a strong spray to "wash" the air. Seal any opening to the outside of the bathroom as best you can.
- Make sure you have a battery-powered radio and a flashlight in case the power goes out.
- Once in the room, seal windows, air vents, and exhaust fans with plastic sheeting and duct tape.
- In some homes, light switches and electrical outlets on outside walls are sources of air infiltration and should also be sealed with duct tape and plastic.
- Lastly, seal around the door with duct tape. If the space under the door is too big to seal with tape, try stuffing a damp towel under the door.
- Continue to listen to the radio or TV for emergency information and updates on the incident.
- Don't call 911 unless you have an emergency like a fire or a serious injury.
- Keep your phone available in case someone needs to contact you.

**What if I can't make it to a building?**

If you can get to your car, go there. Turn off the ventilation system, close your windows and vents, and tune your radio to a local station. If you are driving, try to avoid driving through a vapor cloud and try to drive crosswind. If you are in a chemical cloud, be aware that your car may stall. If your car stalls or was not running when enveloped by the cloud, DO NOT try to start it unless told to do so by a public announcement on the radio.

If you are outside and not close to a building, such as being on a golf course or in a rural area, try to move crosswind. The vapors may drift downwind for miles and unless there is no wind at all you will not be able to outrun them. Going perpendicular to the wind, away from the center of the cloud will get you to a less harmful atmosphere quicker.

**How will I know when it is safe to come out?**

As soon as it is deemed safe, authorities will tell you it is safe to leave your building.

**Disaster Supplies to have on hand:**

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable battery-operated radio
- Duct tape and plastic sheeting & wrap
- Games and toys to occupy children
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Emergency food and water